

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

41-2133

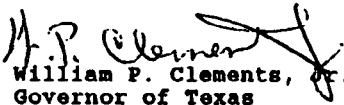
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14 of the Texas Constitution, I, William P. Clements, Jr., Governor of Texas, do hereby veto House Bill 151 because of the following objections:

Presently all offenses under the Texas cruelty to animals statute are punishable by a maximum \$2,000 fine, up to 1 year in jail, or both. This bill would make a third offense for certain activities prohibited by the cruelty to animals statute a third degree felony, punishable by up to ten years in the state penitentiary. At the same time, the bill would lower the penalty for starvation, neglect or abandonment of an animal to a \$200 fine. I share the widely held concern for preventing cruelty to animals, but this bill is the wrong approach. This bill would make the policy statement that certain types of cruelty are not as bad as other types of cruelty. If this bill were to become law, a person convicted for a third offense of cockfighting could be sentenced to prison for ten years while a person who starves a herd of horses would be subject only to a \$200 fine. It would be a better approach to combine higher monetary fines with stricter enforcement of existing law effectively to address this issue in its entirety.

The Secretary of State shall take notice of this action and notify the Legislature.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 11th day of June, 1987.


William P. Clements, Jr.
Governor of Texas



Filed in the Office of
Secretary of State

JUN 11 1987

Statutory Filings Division
Statutory Documents

Lawrence M. Davis